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Serial No.: 11/291,347
Examiner: Hussein A. El ChantiIN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the Application.

1. (currently amended) A method of mirroring a one or more traffic flow[[s]] from a source network device to a target network device for allowing analysis of the traffic flow using the target network device, the method comprising the steps of:
 - receiving one or more ingress frames of the traffic flow at the source network device;
 - generating at least one duplicate frame for each of the one or more ingress frames at the source network device in response to determining that the one or more ingress frames satisfy prescribed mirror classification criteria corresponding to information intended to influence said analysis of the traffic flow, wherein each of the one or more ingress frames at least comprises an associated address corresponding to an original designation network device;
 - appending a virtual local area network (VLAN) tag to the at least one duplicate frame, wherein the VLAN designated the target network device which is different than the original designation network device;
 - transmitting the one or more ingress frames from the source network device based on the associated address;
 - transmitting the at least one duplicate frame with the VLAN tag from the source network device towards the target network device based on the VLAN tag;
 - receiving the at least one duplicate frame with the VLAN tag at the target network device;[[and]]
 - removing the VLAN tag from the at least one duplicate frame at the target network device after receiving the at least one duplicate frame at the target network device; ~~wherein~~ such that the target network device generates a

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substantially identical copy of at least one of the one or more ingress frames
of the traffic flow received at the source network device; and
performing analysis of the at least one duplicate frame received at the target
network device using the target network device for accessing the at least one
duplicate frame.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more ingress frames comprise one or more data link layer frames.
3. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein the one or more data link layer frames comprise one or more Ethernet frames.
4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the VLAN tag is an 802.1Q tag.
5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the VLAN tag comprises a network monitoring VLAN reserved for transmitting at least one mirrored flow and wherein
6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the source network device is one of a first set of source network devices adapted to concurrently generate a plurality of duplicate frames and append said VLAN tag to said plurality of frames.
7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the target network device is one of a second set comprising a plurality of network devices, wherein the method further comprises the steps of: transmitting the at least one duplicate frame with the VLAN tag from the source network device to each of the plurality of network devices based on the VLAN tag; receiving the at least one duplicate frame with the VLAN tag at each of the plurality of network devices; and removing the VLAN tag from the at least one duplicate frame at each of the plurality of network devices.

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8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the step of transmitting said generated copy of one or more ingress frames from the target network device to one or more host devices operatively coupled to the target network device.

9. (currently amended) A system adapted to mirror one or more flows between remote network nodes, the system comprising:
a source network device adapted to:

receive one or more ingress frames of the traffic flow at the source network device;

generate at least one duplicate frame for each of the one or more ingress frames at the source network device in response to determining that the one or more ingress frames satisfy prescribed mirror classification criteria corresponding to information intended to influence said analysis of the traffic flow, wherein each of the one or more ingress frames at least comprises an address corresponding to an original designation network device;

append a virtual local area network (VLAN) tag to the at least one duplicate frame, wherein the VLAN designated the target network device which is different than the original designation network device;

transmit the one or more ingress frames from the source network device based on the address;

transmit the at least one duplicate frame with the VLAN tag from the source network device towards the target network device based on the VLAN tag;
and

a source network device adapted to:

receive the at least one duplicate frame with the VLAN tag at the target network device; and

remove the VLAN tag from the at least one duplicate frame at the target network device after receiving the at least one duplicate frame at the target network device such that the target network device generates a substantially identical

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copy of at least one of the one or more ingress frames of the traffic flow received at the source network device thereby allowing analysis of at least a portion of the traffic flow to be performed using the target network device.

10. (original) The system of claim 9, wherein the one or more ingress frames comprise one or more data link layer frames.
11. (original) The system of claim 10, wherein the one or more data link layer frames comprise one or more Ethernet frames.
12. (original) The system of claim 9, wherein the VLAN tag is an 802.1Q tag.
13. (original) The system of claim 9, wherein the VLAN tag comprises a network monitoring VLAN reserved for transmitting at least one mirrored flow.
14. (original) The system of claim 9, wherein the source network device is one of a first set of source network devices adapted to concurrently generate a plurality of duplicate frames and append said VLAN tag to said plurality of frames.
15. (original) The system of claim 9, wherein the target network device is one of a second set comprising a plurality of network devices, and wherein the source network device is further adapted to transmit the at least one duplicate frame with the VLAN tag to each of the plurality of network devices based on the VLAN tag; and wherein the plurality of network devices are adapted to: receive the at least one duplicate frame with the VLAN tag, and remove the VLAN tag from the at least one duplicate frame.

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16. (original) The system of claim 9, wherein the target network device adapted to transmit said generated copy of one or more ingress frames to one or more host devices operatively coupled to the target network device.

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